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BBC

DOCTOR WHO

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The Eye of Ashaya, Part 1 of 2

The Doctor is an alien, the last of the powerful Time Lords. He is an intrepid traveller through time and space, armed only with his incredible intelligence and his fix-anything sonic screwdriver. He travels alone except for the human companions he befriends, briefly sharing his life with them and showing them the astonishing wonders of the universe.

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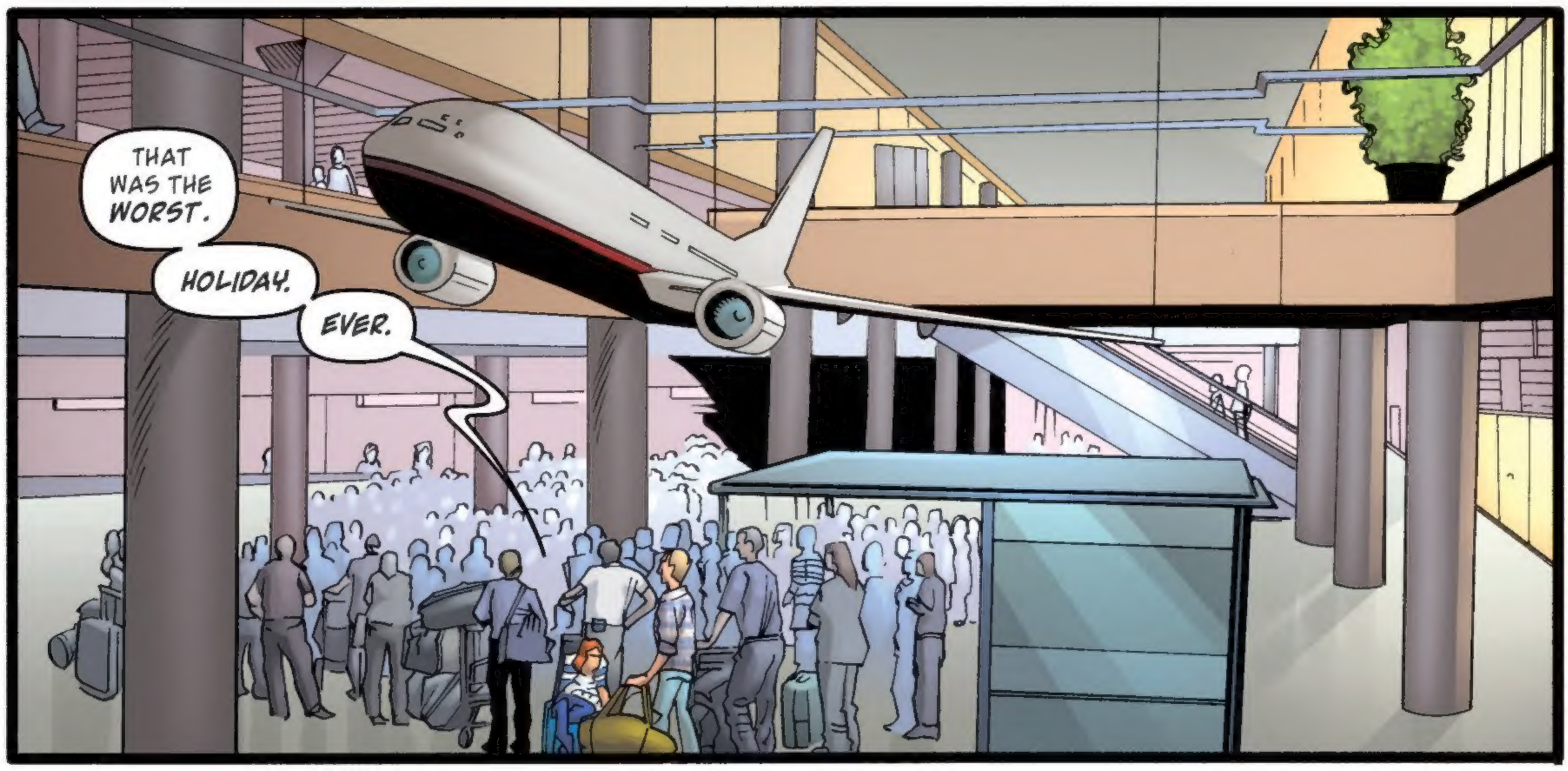
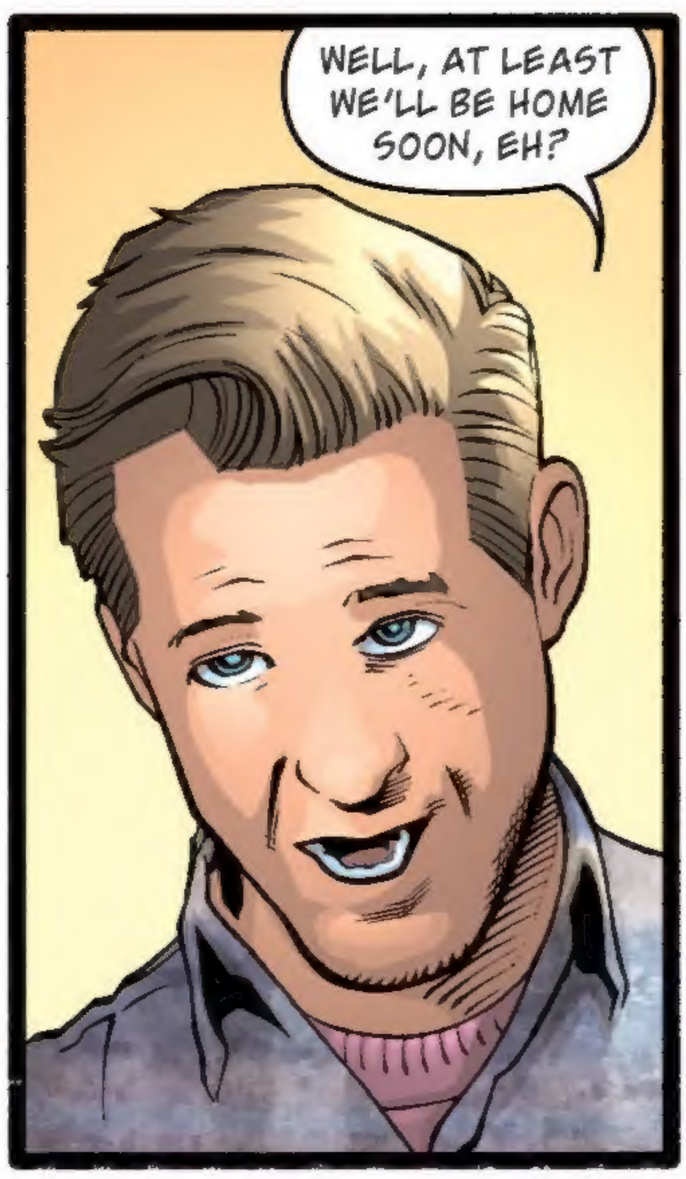

THAT WAS THE WORST.
HOLIDAY.
EVER.

THE HOTEL LOOKED REALLY NICE IN THE BROCHURE...
OH, SURE, IT LOOKED AMAZING. SHAME THAT WAS JUST AN ARTIST'S INTERPRETATION—
—BECAUSE THEY HADN'T ACTUALLY FINISHED BUILDING IT YET!

STILL, AT LEAST WE GOT TO ENJOY THE SPANISH SUN—
IT RAINED!
EXOTIC FOOD—
SOGGY FISH AND CHIPS IN A FAKE ENGLISH PUB!

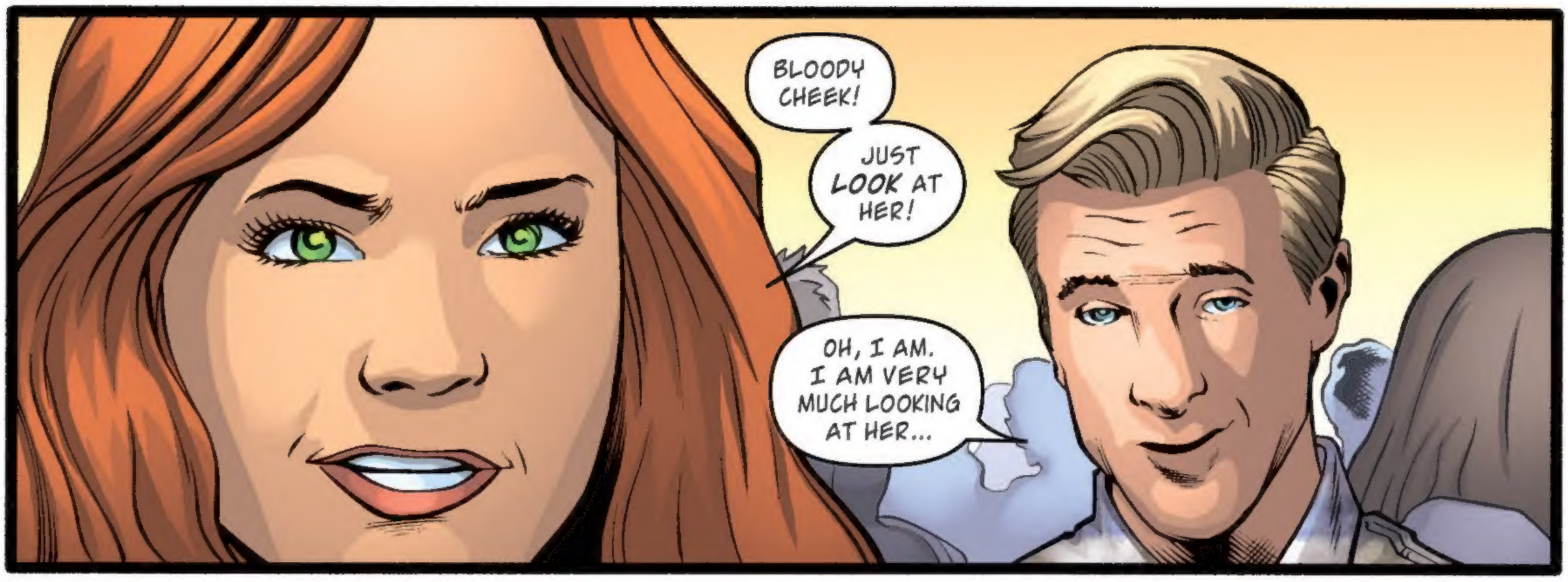

WELL, AT LEAST WE'LL BE HOME SOON, EH?

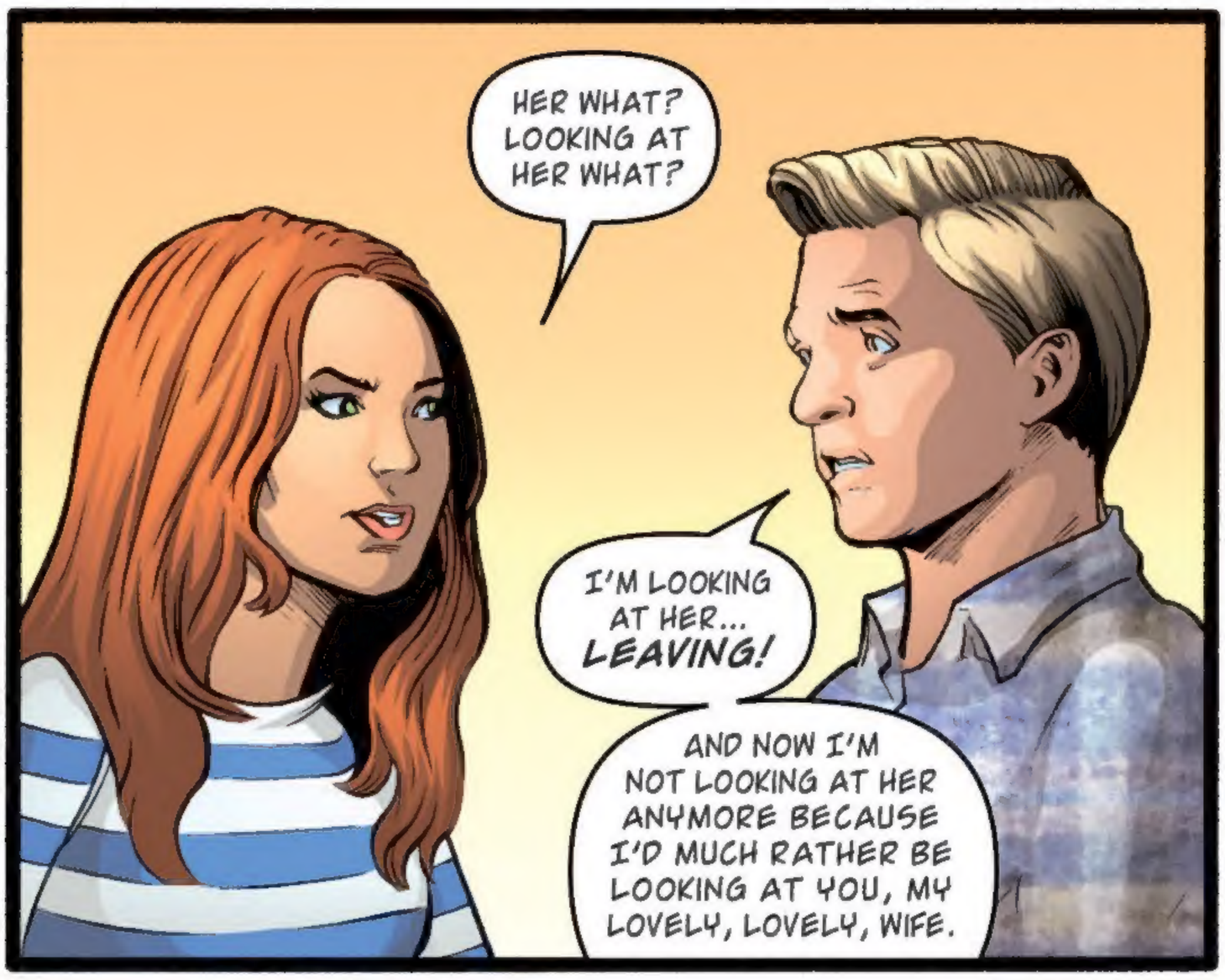
WE REGRET TO INFORM PASSENGERS THAT ALL COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS FROM MAJORCA ARE DELAYED INDEFINITELY.
PLEASE WAIT FOR FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS.
ARGH!
WE'VE ALREADY BEEN STUCK HERE FOR FIVE HOURS!
IF THEY DON'T LET ME ON A PLANE RIGHT NOW I'M GONNA—

ONE SIDE, PEOPLE!
MAKE A HOLE!

LADY CHRISTINA DE SOUZA COMING THROUGH!

OY! HOW COME SHE GETS TO GO THROUGH WHILE THE REST OF US ARE STUCK OUT HERE?!


BLOODY CHEEK!
JUST LOOK AT HER!
OH, I AM. I AM VERY MUCH LOOKING AT HER...

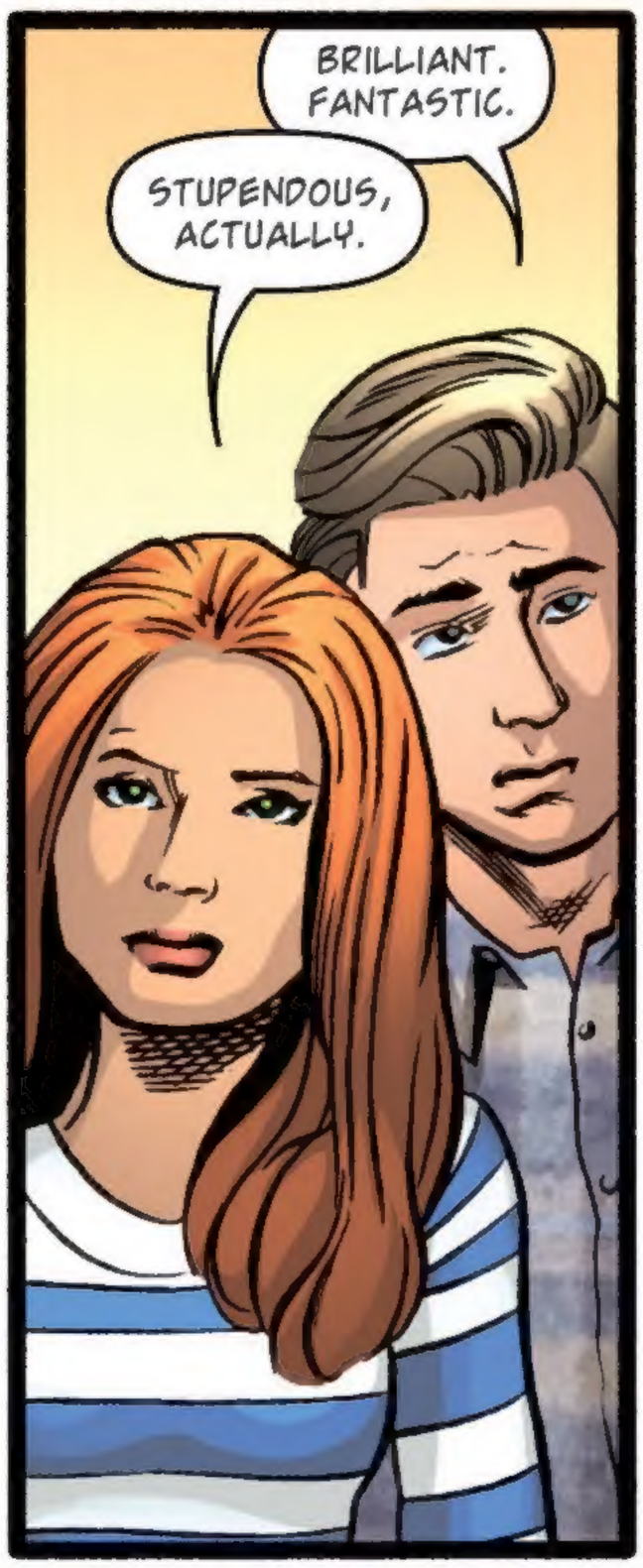

HER WHAT? LOOKING AT HER WHAT?
I'M LOOKING AT HER... LEAVING!
AND NOW I'M NOT LOOKING AT HER ANYMORE BECAUSE I'D MUCH RATHER BE LOOKING AT YOU, MY LOVELY, LOVELY, WIFE.

TAKE AWAY THE FANCY CLOTHES AND JEWELRY AND WHAT'S SHE GOT THAT I HAVEN'T GOT, EH?
...A LEARJET?

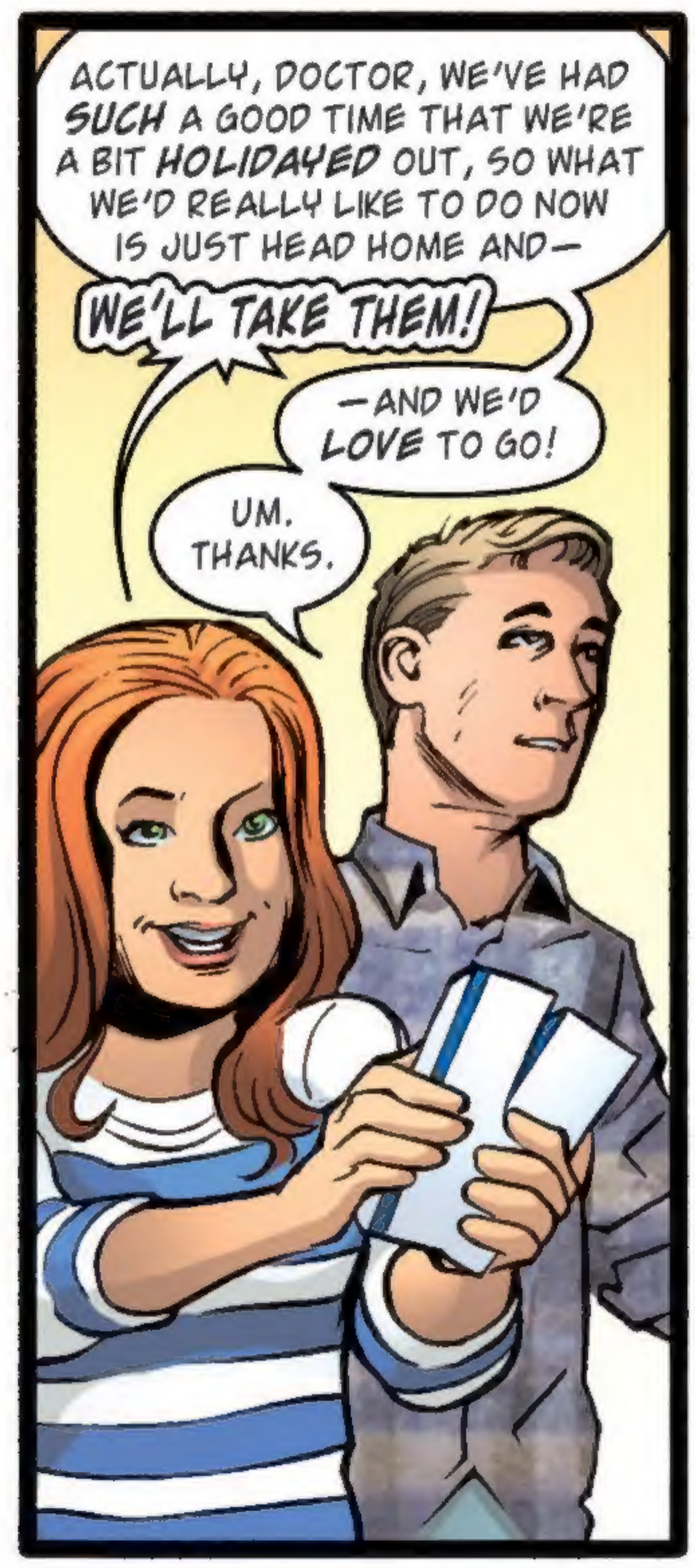
VWORP VWORP
OH, THANK GOD.

BREEEEEEE
HELLO! LOOK AT ALL THIS!
AIRPORTS, EH? LOVE A GOOD AIRPORT, ME.
ACTUALLY, NOT REALLY. CAN'T STAND THEM. HORRIBLE PLACES.
DID YOU MISS ME?

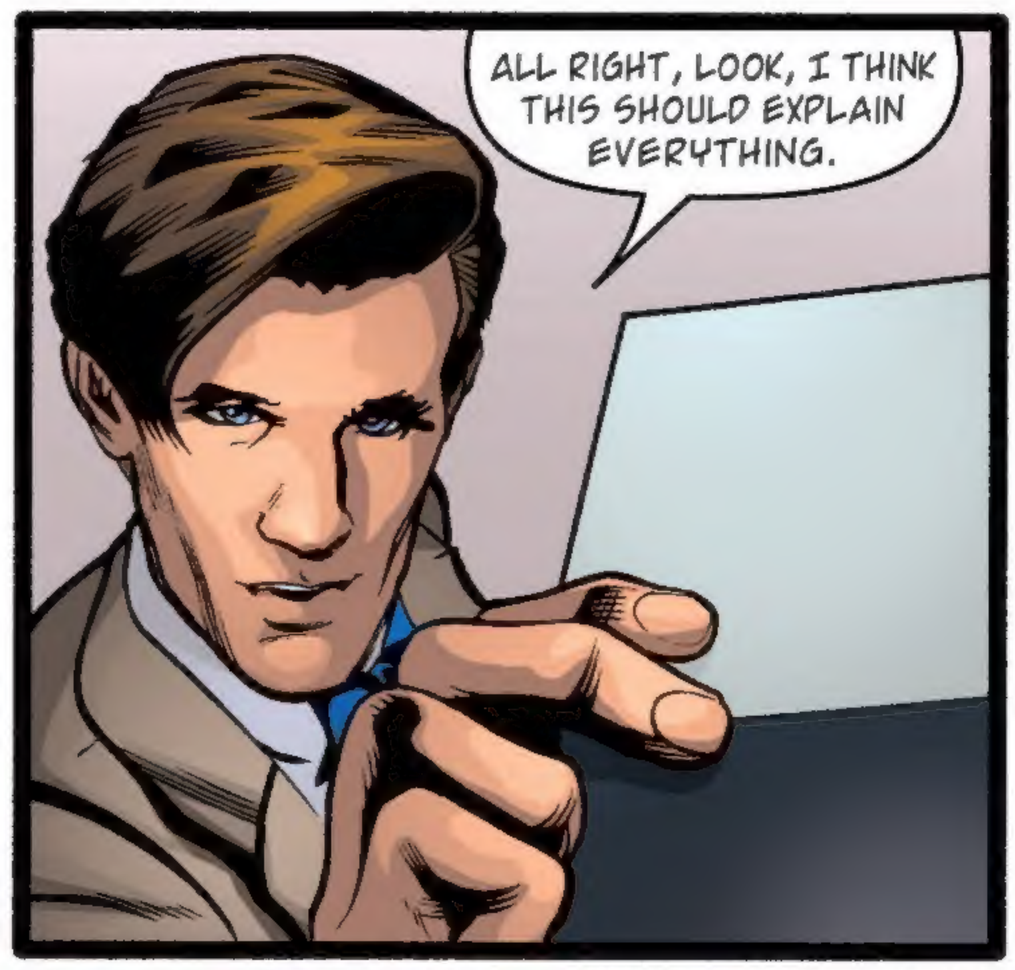
DOCTOR! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SO I DROPPED YOU OFF IN MAJORCA, LIKE YOU ASKED. WAS IT GOOD THEN?


BRILLIANT. FANTASTIC.
STUPENDOUS, ACTUALLY.

RIGHT. GOOD. GLAD TO HEAR IT.
SO PRESUMABLY YOU WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED IN VIP TICKETS TO THE MAIDEN VOYAGE OF THE MOST LUXURIOUS STAR-LINER IN THE GALAXY, THEN?


ACTUALLY, DOCTOR, WE'VE HAD SUCH A GOOD TIME THAT WE'RE A BIT HOLIDAYED OUT, SO WHAT WE'D REALLY LIKE TO DO NOW IS JUST HEAD HOME AND—
WE'LL TAKE THEM!
—AND WE'D LOVE TO GO!
UM. THANKS.

YOU WITH THE BOW TIE!
HANDS IN THE AIR!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
WHAT'S THIS, GUNS? REALLY?
HONESTLY, DOES THIS SORT OF APPROACH USUALLY WORK WHEN YOU'RE MEETING SOMEONE FOR THE FIRST TIME?
NOT REALLY THE IDEAL ICEBREAKER, I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT.
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT TRYING A CUP OF TEA AND A BISCUIT?

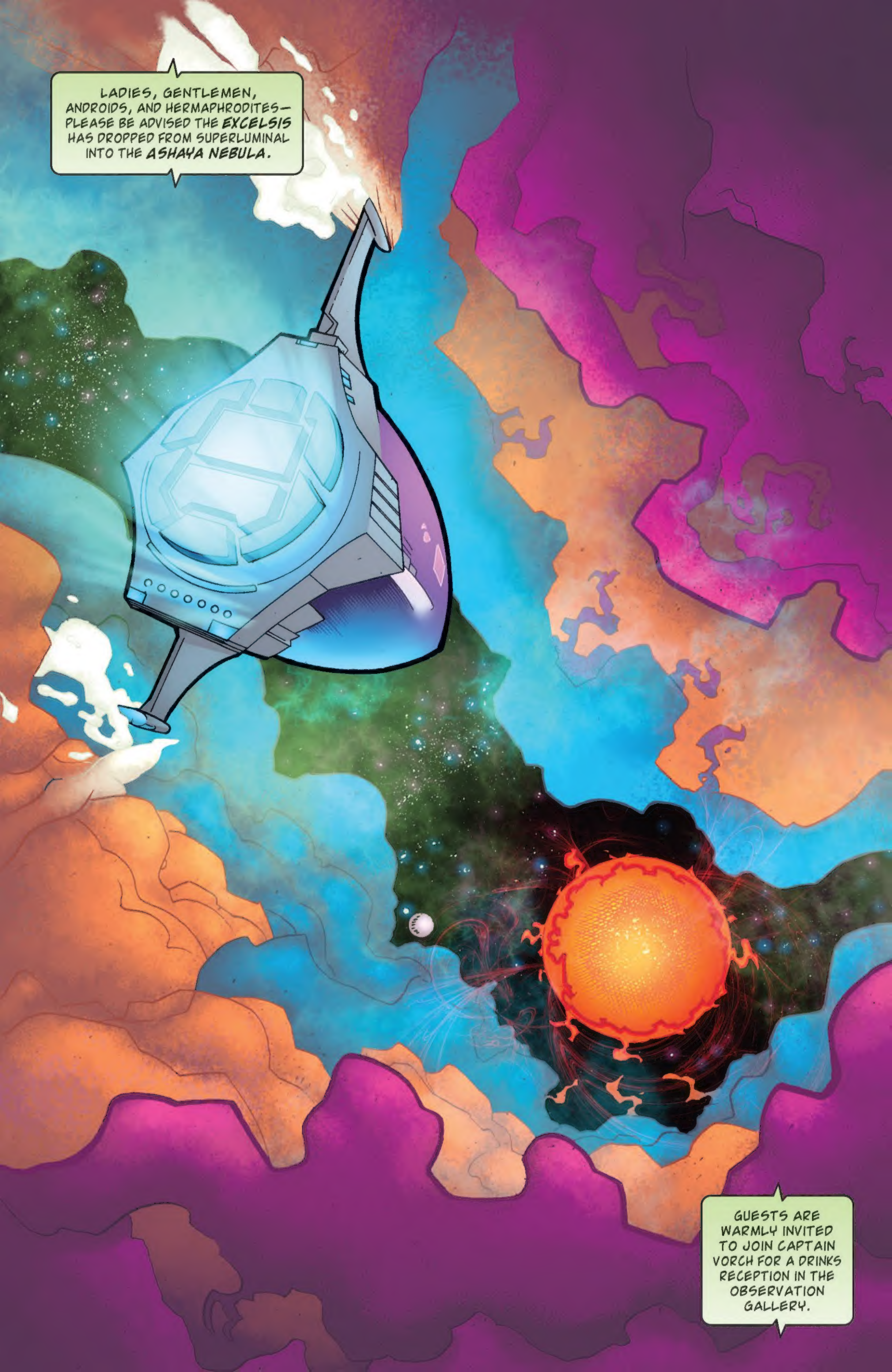

ALL RIGHT, LOOK, I THINK THIS SHOULD EXPLAIN EVERYTHING.

SIR! FORGIVE ME, SIR! I HAD NO IDEA IT WAS YOU!
GUARDS! FORM A SECURITY DETAIL FOR HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS!

BREEESKRRK
RIGHT THEN!
COME ALONG, PONDS!

VERY GOOD, MEN!
AT EASE, STAND DOWN, THAT SORT OF THING.
CARRY ON!

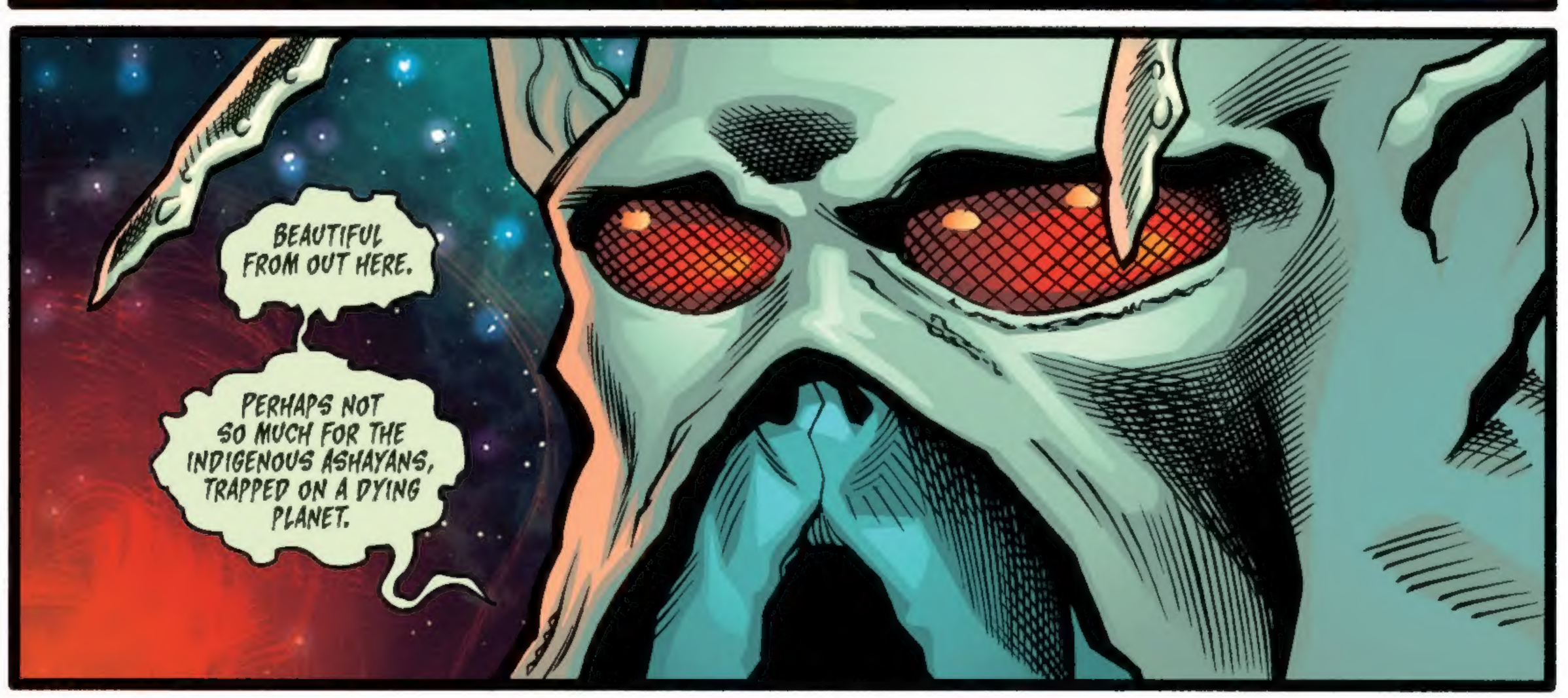
VWORPVWORPVWORP


LADIES, GENTLEMEN, ANDROIDS, AND HERMAPHRODITES— PLEASE BE ADVISED THE EXCELSIS HAS DROPPED FROM SUPERLUMINAL INTO THE ASHAYA NEBULA.
GUESTS ARE WARMLY INVITED TO JOIN CAPTAIN VORCH FOR A DRINKS RECEPTION IN THE OBSERVATION GALLERY.

CAPTAIN VORCH, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE AMBASSADOR TRELAYCE OF THE KARKAPTAN INHERITANCE—
I'M QUITE CAPABLE OF MAKING MY OWN INTRODUCTIONS.
WHY DON'T YOU GO AND SEE IF SOMEONE NEEDS THEIR DRINK REFRESHED?

AMBASSADOR, FORGIVE MY FIRST MATE. THESE ASHAYANS FORGET THEIR PLACE.
IT'S A PLEASURE FINALLY TO MEET YOU IN THE FLESH.
AND MAY I JUST SAY, YOUR APPENDAGES ARE LOOKING PARTICULARLY RESPLENDENT THIS EVENING.
WHY, THANK YOU, CAPTAIN.

YOU PUT ON QUITE A SHOW.
SPECTACULAR, ISN'T IT?
NEW STARS BIRTHING FROM THE HYDROGEN CLOUDS, EVEN AS THE RED GIANT AT THE NEBULA'S CORE ENTERS ITS FINAL DEATH THROES.
THE CYCLE OF LIFE AND DEATH IN ALL ITS FIERCE BEAUTY...


BEAUTIFUL FROM OUT HERE.
PERHAPS NOT SO MUCH FOR THE INDIGENOUS ASHAYANS, TRAPPED ON A DYING PLANET.

TRAPPED? THE VODIRAN BLOC HAS GONE OUT OF ITS WAY TO OFFER THEM OFF-WORLD POSITIONS AS VASSALS AND THRALLS.
WE'RE BRINGING THE BENEFITS OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY TO A BACKWATER PEOPLE.

WINE, CAPTAIN?
ERK!
GET LOST.

WE'LL BE CRUISING THROUGH ONE OF ASHAYA'S SOLAR FLARES IN JUST A FEW HOURS.
THE VIEWS PROMISE TO BE OUT OF THIS WORLD.
THAT SOUNDS RATHER DANGEROUS.
ARE YOU SURE WE'LL BE SAFE?

WHY, I DON'T BELIEVE I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE...

LADY CHRISTINA DE SOUZA.
OF EARTH.

EARTH?
FORGIVE ME, I DON'T BELIEVE I'VE HEARD OF IT...
WE DON'T GET OUT MUCH.
ENCHANTED. AND ARE ALL EARTH FEMALES AS... STRIKING AS YOU?

ARE ALL VODIRANS AS SHAMELESS AS YOU?

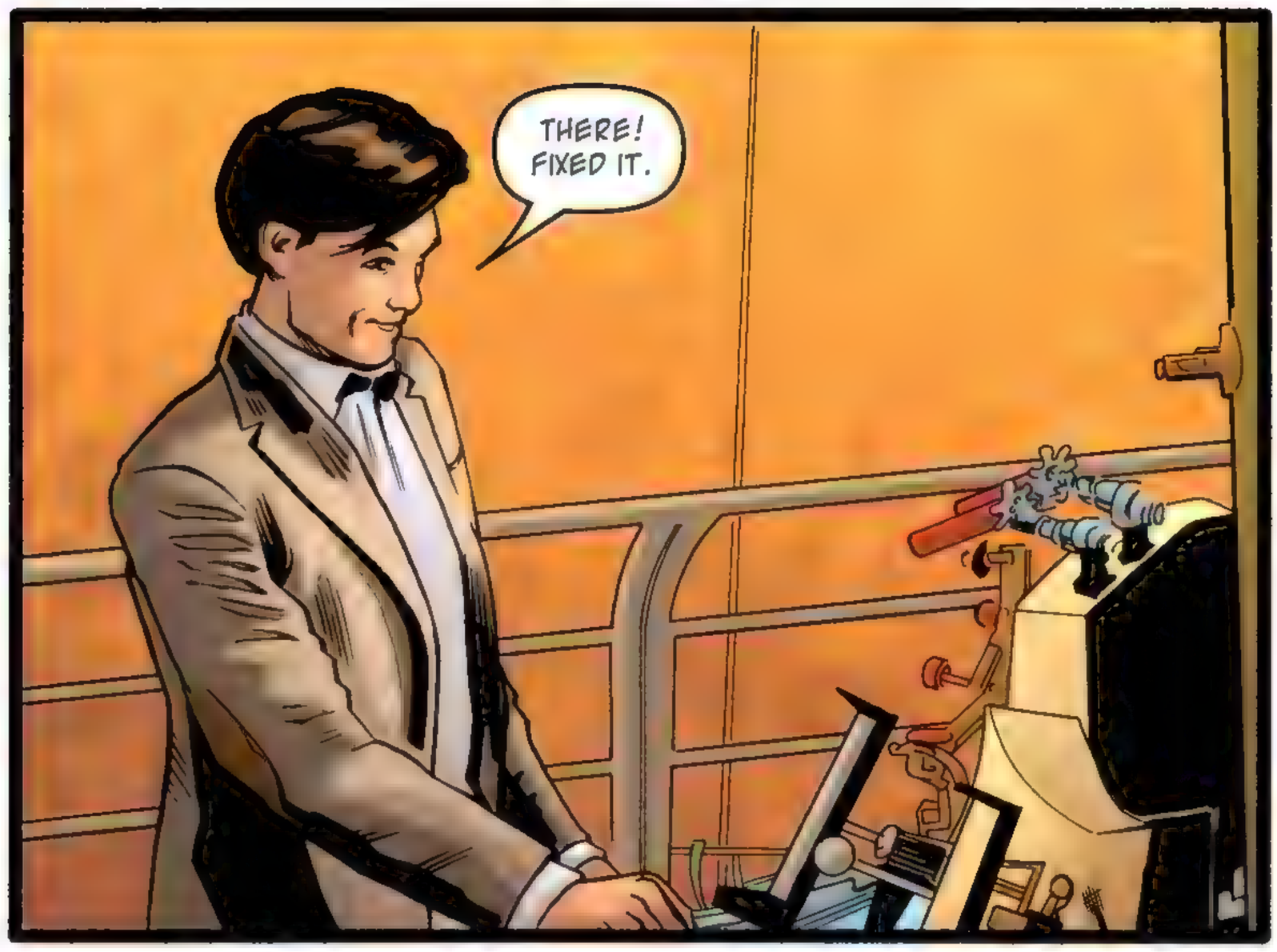
LET'S JUST SAY WE BELIEVE IN TAKING THE LEAD, IF YOU FOLLOW MY MEANING.
PERHAPS A PRIVATE TOUR?
OH, BROTHER. GIMME A BREAK...

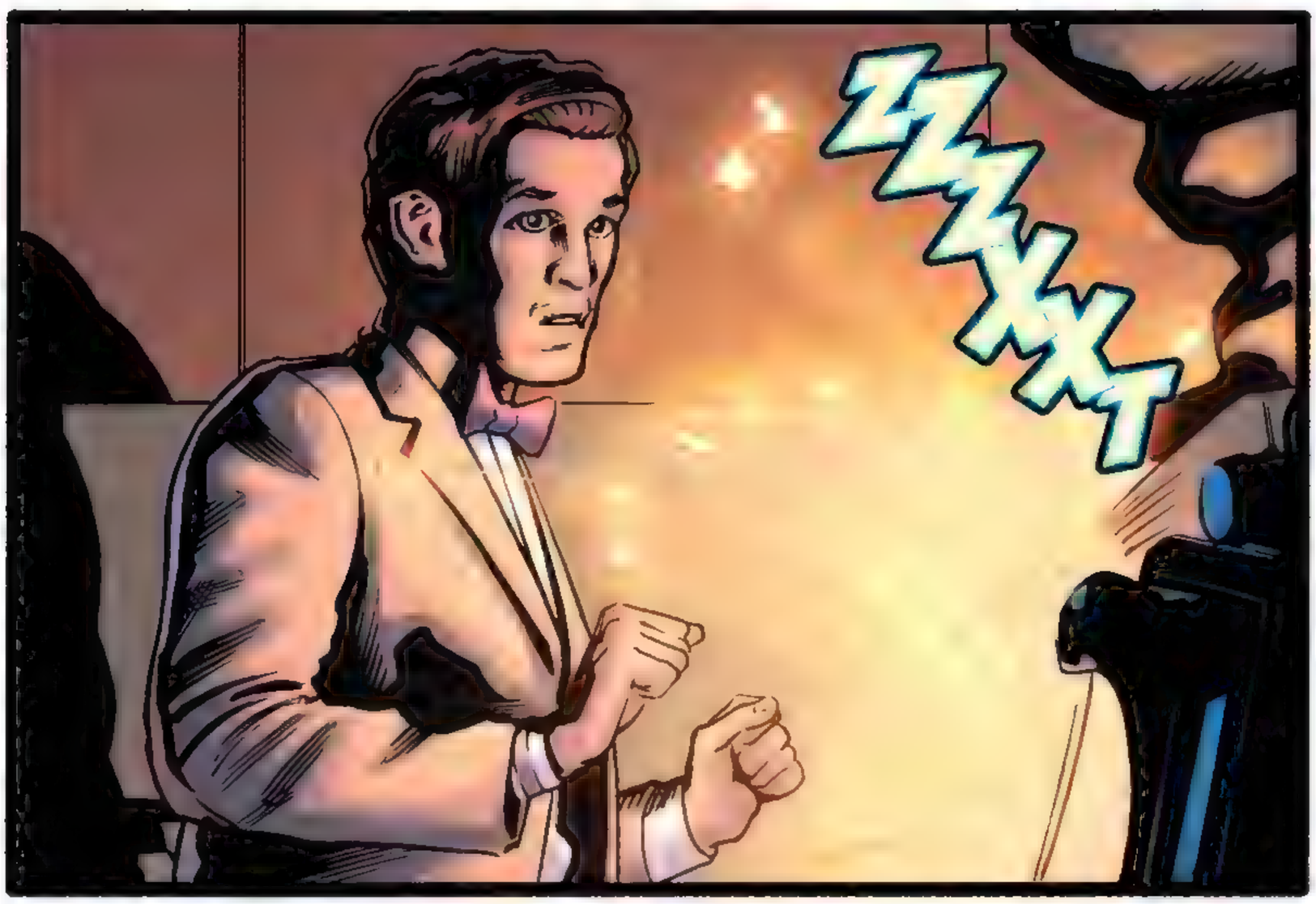
HUSH, NEKO. I'M SOCIALISING.
GO MINGLE.
'SCUSE ME WHILE I GO BARF UP A HAIRBALL.

I GOT PLACES TO BE ANYWAY.

VWORP VWORP VWORP
HERE WE ARE! THE OLD GIRL'S BEEN A BIT SQUIRRELY, BUT WE GOT THERE IN THE END.
WELCOME TO THE EXCELSIS!
I COULD USE A BIT OF MODERN LUXURY AFTER ALL THAT 19TH-CENTURY STUFF.
SO HOW FAR IN THE FUTURE ARE WE EXACTLY?
OH, NOT FAR. JUST A COUPLE OF YEARS AND A FEW GALAXIES OVER.
HOP, SKIP, AND A JUMP!

COME ON THEN!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
BLEEP BLEEP BLEEP
BE RIGHT WITH YOU! I JUST NEED TO, UH...
SOMETHING'S NOT QUITE, UH...


THERE! FIXED IT.


ZZZXXXT

SLICK. VERY SLICK.

RIGHT. YES. PROBLEM.
YOU TWO GO ON AHEAD AND, Y'KNOW, CHECK OUT THE LAY OF THE LAND, HAVE A DAIQUIRI, AND ALL THAT.
I'LL JUST BE...
...TWO...
...SECONDS...

HEARD THAT BEFORE...
HE'LL BE AT IT ALL DAY.
COME ON, LET'S GO AND FIND THE GOOD SEATS BY THE POOL BEFORE THE GERMAN TOURISTS BLAG 'EM.

THREE GALAXIES OVER.
NOT SURE THEY'LL BE GIG ON GERMAN TOURISTS.
SIX-EYED SQUID MONSTER TOURISTS, THEN. I DON'T KNOW.
CAN'T BE ANY WORSE THAN THE ONES IN—

AAH!
WHOA!

OOF!

WHAT THE BLUMMIN'—?
WE'RE SIDEWAYS!

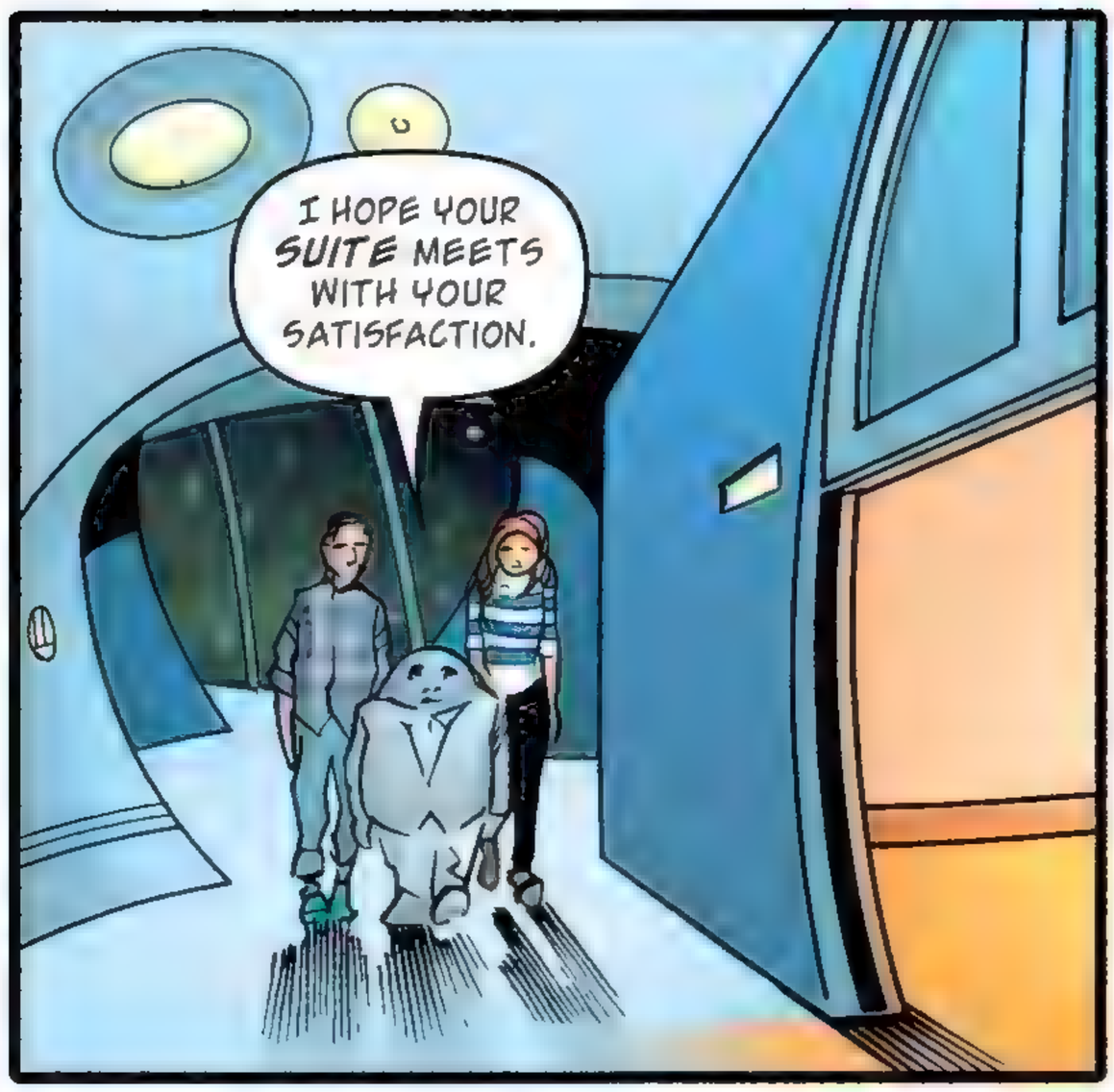
Oy!
DOCTOR! YOU LANDED SIDEWAYS!
WE NEARLY BROKE OUR NECKS!

SIDEWAYS? THAT IS A BIT ODD.

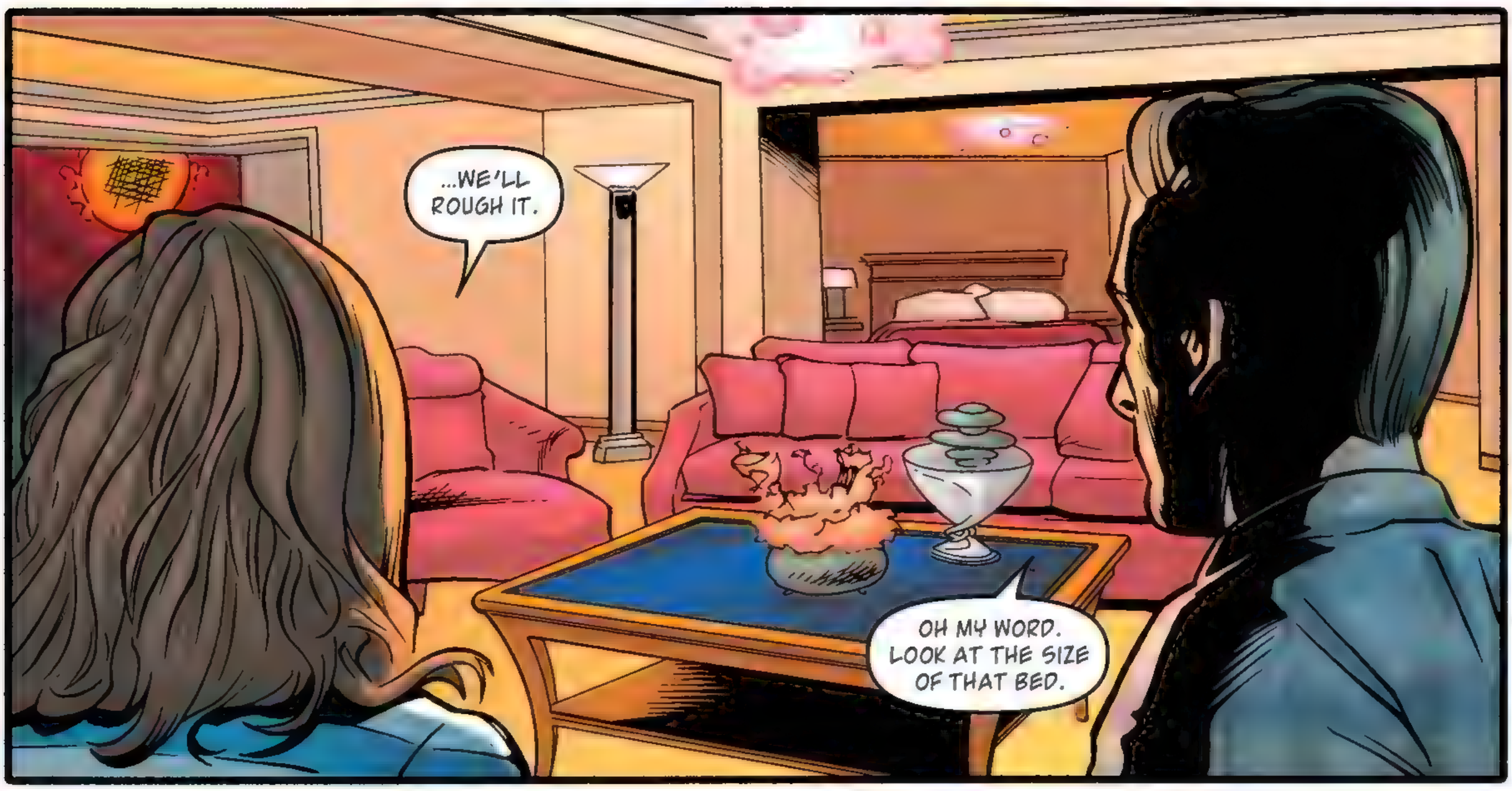
WHAT IS GOING ON WITH YOU JUST LATELY, OLD GIRL?

MAY I HELP YOU?
IT'S ALL RIGHT, WE'RE NOT STOWAWAYS!
LOOK! WE HAVE TICKETS!

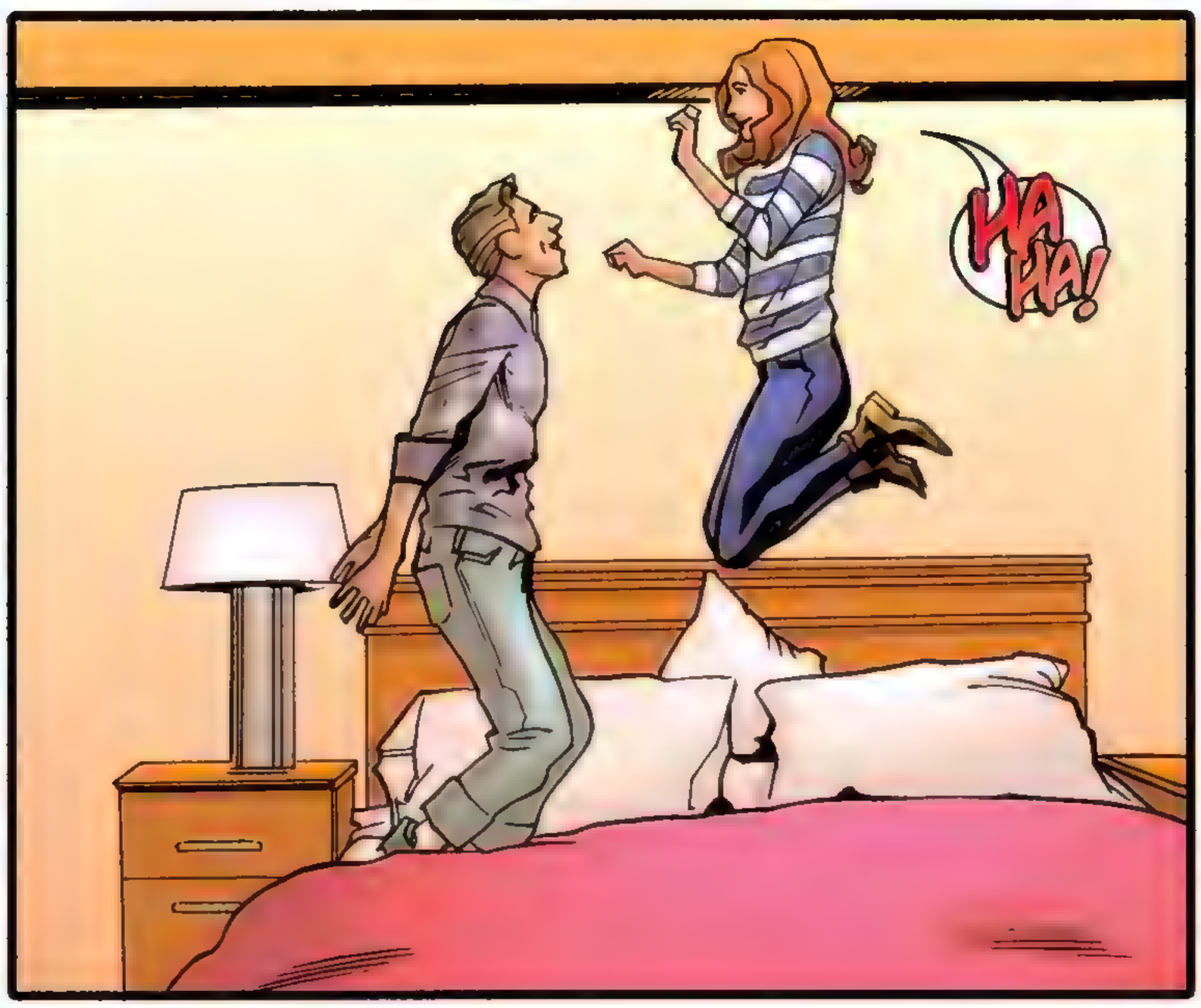
SIR, MA'AM, I DEEPLY REGRET ANY SUCH INFERENCE MY MANNER MAY HAVE CAUSED.
HEY, NO, IT'S FINE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO KNEEL.
PLEASE ACCEPT MY DEEPEST APOLOGIES.
THAT'S REALLY SO NOT NECESSARY.
I AM UNWORTHY.

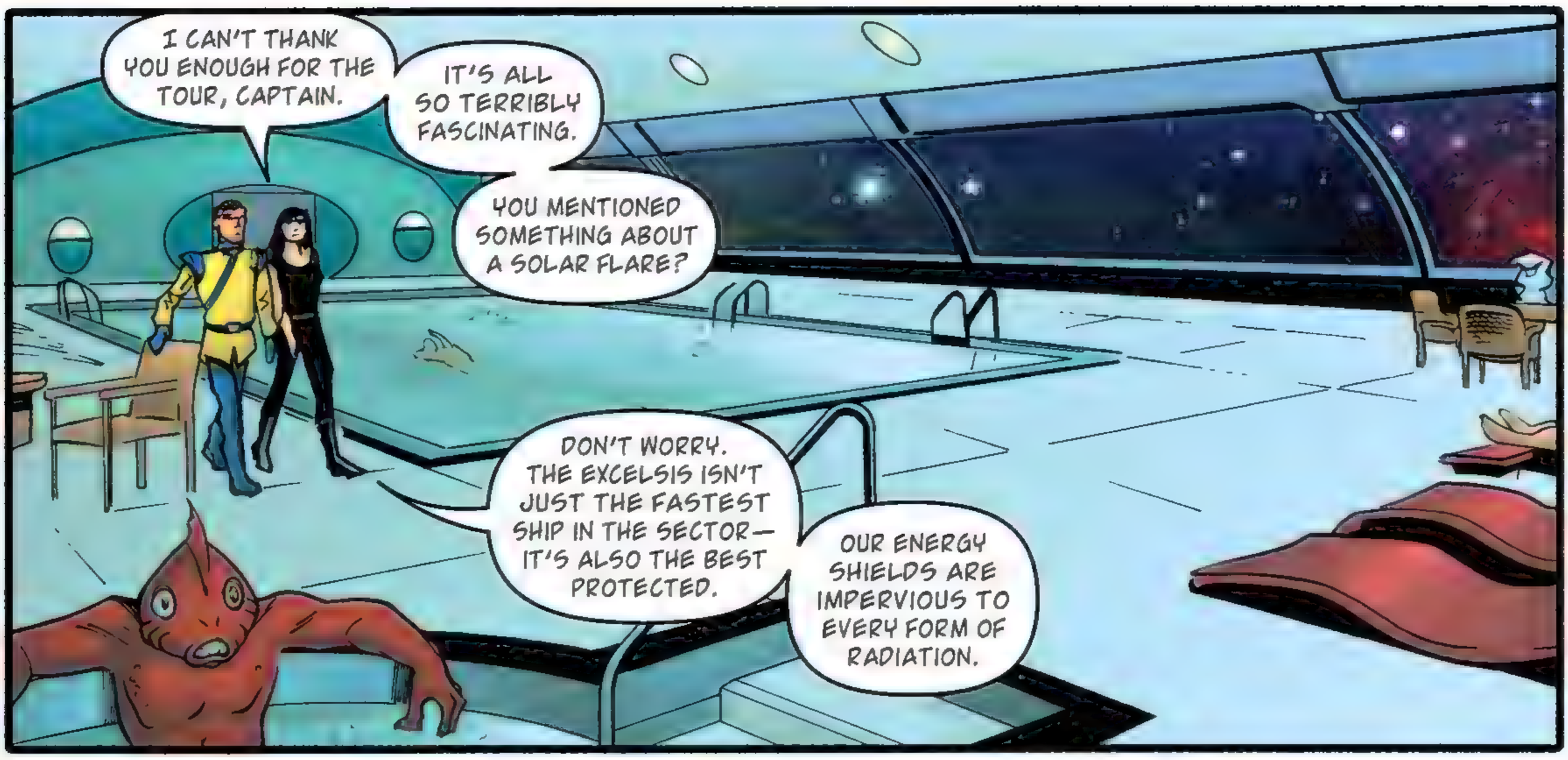

I HOPE YOUR SUITE MEETS WITH YOUR SATISFACTION.

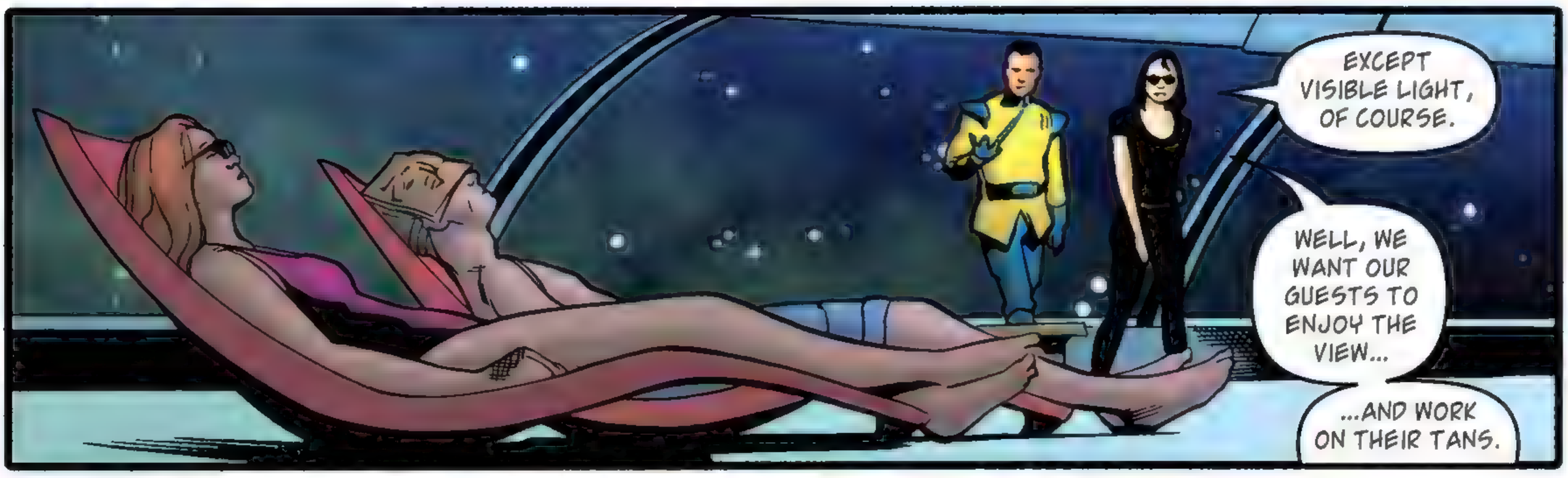
WOW.
WELL, NORMALLY, Y'KNOW, WE'RE USED TO THE FINER THINGS, BUT WHAT THE HELL...


...WE'LL ROUGH IT.
OH MY WORD. LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT BED.

ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING?

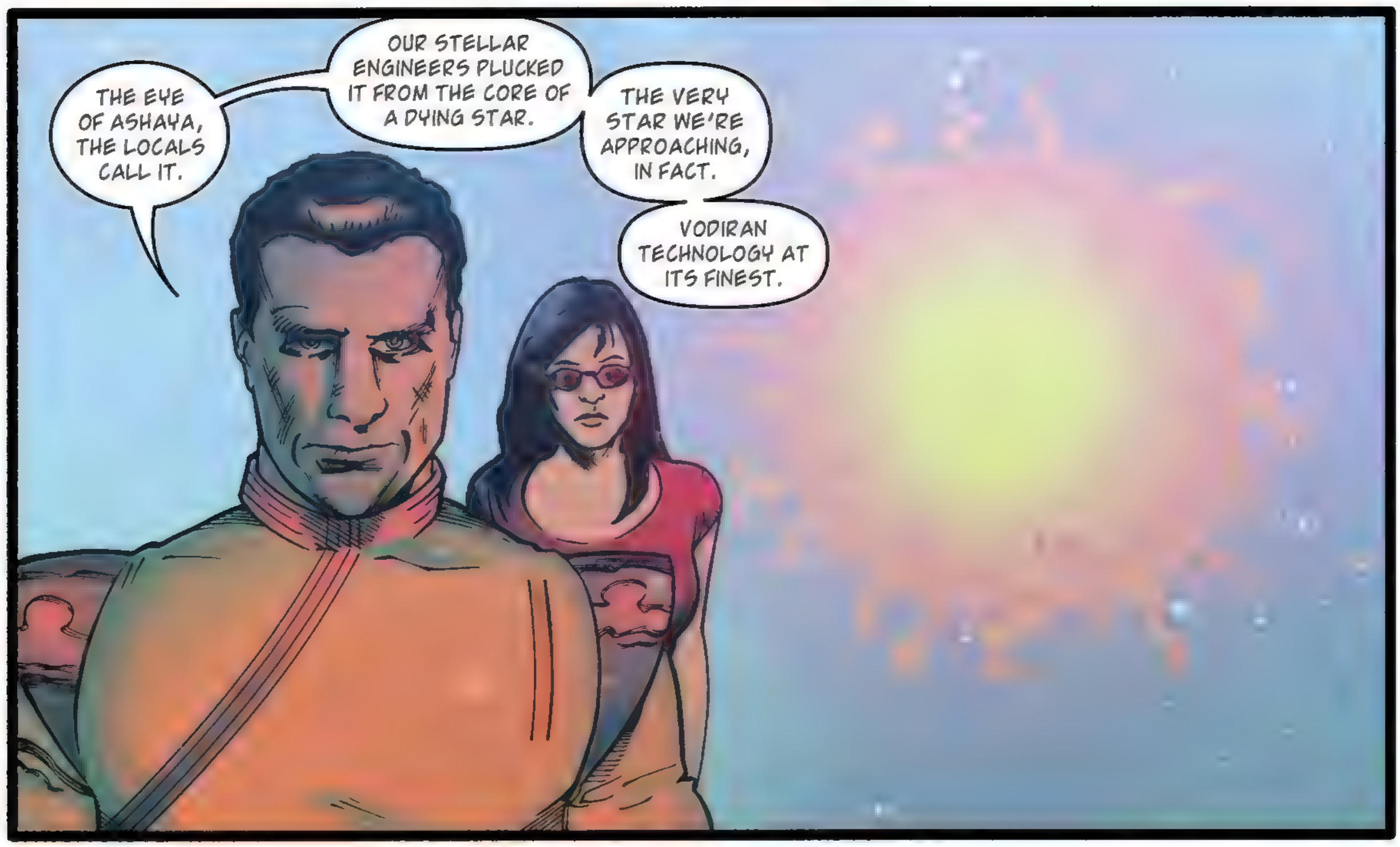

HA HA!


I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR THE TOUR, CAPTAIN.
IT'S ALL SO TERRIBLY FASCINATING.
YOU MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT A SOLAR FLARE?
DON'T WORRY. THE EXCELSIS ISN'T JUST THE FASTEST SHIP IN THE SECTOR— IT'S ALSO THE BEST PROTECTED.
OUR ENERGY SHIELDS ARE IMPERVIOUS TO EVERY FORM OF RADIATION.


EXCEPT VISIBLE LIGHT, OF COURSE.
WELL, WE WANT OUR GUESTS TO ENJOY THE VIEW...
...AND WORK ON THEIR TANS.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO SLIP INTO SOMETHING MORE REVEALING—
HOW DO THEY WORK?
I'M SORRY?
THE SHIELDS.
FORGIVE ME, I'D FEEL SAFER IF I KNEW MORE ABOUT THEM.

THE EXCELSIS IS POWERED BY A REFRACTION DRIVE. ZERO-POINT ENERGY, FOCUSED THROUGH THE LARGEST DIAMOND IN THE GALAXY.
A DIAMOND, YOU SAY.
HOW INTERESTING.


THE EYE OF ASHAYA, THE LOCALS CALL IT.
OUR STELLAR ENGINEERS PLUCKED IT FROM THE CORE OF A DYING STAR.
THE VERY STAR WE'RE APPROACHING, IN FACT.
VODIRAN TECHNOLOGY AT ITS FINEST.

AND WAS ASHAYA DYING BEFORE YOU PLUCKED THE DIAMOND FROM ITS CORE?
WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY. YOU CAN'T MAKE AN OMELETTE WITHOUT BREAKING SOME EGGS.
THE PRICE WE PAY FOR PROGRESS.

SO MUCH EASIER WHEN SOMEONE ELSE PAYS, I ALWAYS FIND.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
WHAT?
IT'S THAT WOMAN FROM THE AIRPORT.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

MY SENSE OF THE IMPOSSIBLE ISN'T QUITE WHAT IT USED TO BE, RORY.
LOOK!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, IT COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE—
HUH.
YEAH, IT IS HER.

WHO IS SHE?

SHE'S A THIEF.

DOCTOR! I THOUGHT YOU WERE FIXING THE TARDIS.
I WAS.
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED FIRST...

'THAT'S A JOLLY GOOD QUESTION, AMY.

'LAST TIME I SAW HER, SHE WAS ESCAPING FROM A U.N.I.T. TACTICAL SQUAD'!

SHE WAS AT THE AIRPORT. PUSHED RIGHT PAST US LIKE SHE OWNED THE PLACE.

SAID SHE WAS GOING TO UTAH.

UTAH? OF COURSE, THE VAULT...

CHRISTINA, YOU SLY FOX...

KNOW MY PLACE, HE SAYS.
SEE IF ANYONE NEEDS THEIR DRINK REFRESHED, HE SAYS.

I'M THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER, DAMN IT!
WHAM

OH.
I... THOUGHT I WAS ALONE.
WE'RE ON A BREAK.

WE WERE JUST DISCUSSING... CONDITIONS. AND WHAT MIGHT BE DONE ABOUT THEM.
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED OUR PROPOSAL?

I DON'T NEED TO CONSIDER IT. IT'S MUTINY!

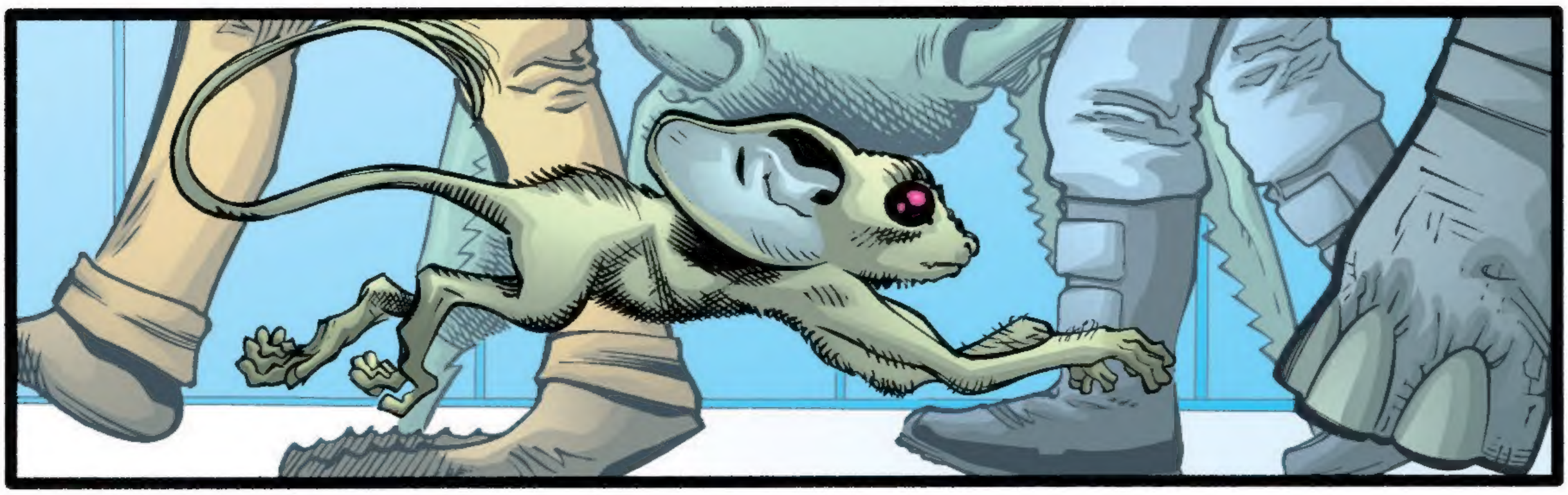
WORSE THAN THAT. TERRORISM, THEY'LL CALL IT.
BUT WHAT OTHER CHOICE DO WE HAVE?
WHAT KIND OF FUTURE FOR OUR PEOPLE UNDER THESE VODIRAN SCUM?
WATCH YOUR MOUTH, STEWARD! I COULD HAVE YOU BROUGHT UP ON CHARGES.

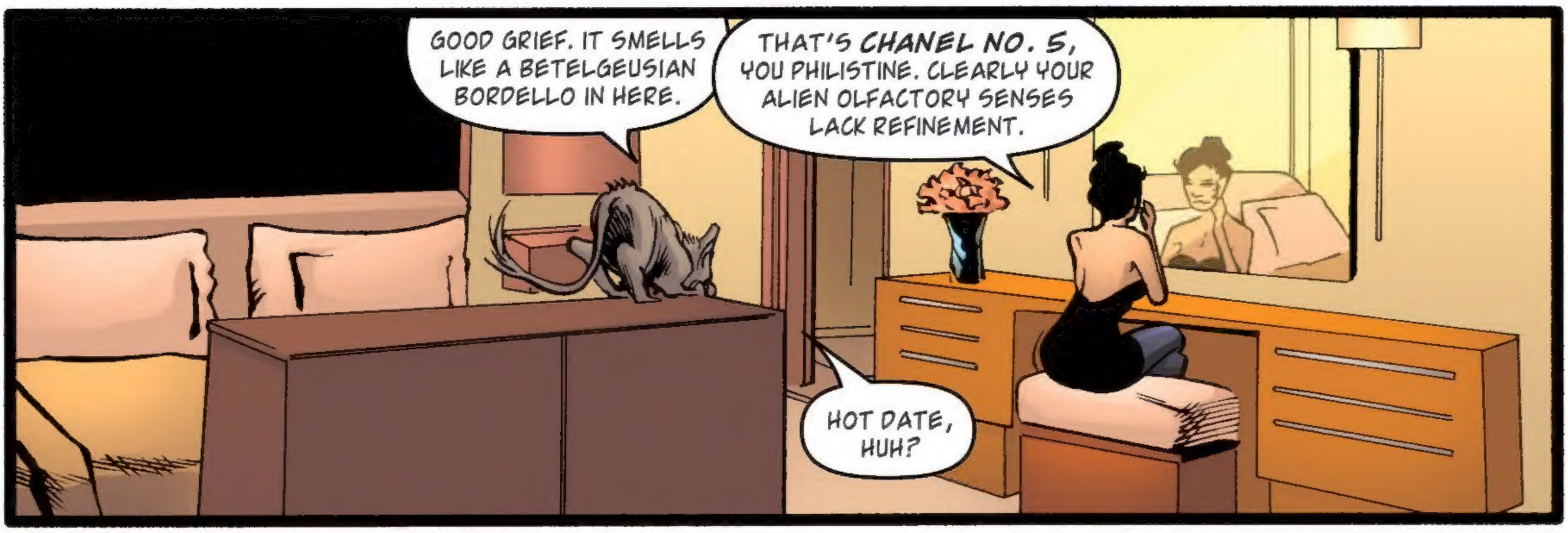
YOU COULD HAVE DONE THAT BACK IN DRY-DOCK, WHEN WE FIRST APPROACHED YOU ABOUT OUR PLAN.
BUT YOU DIDN'T...
AND DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY? IT'S BECAUSE DEEP DOWN INSIDE, YOU KNOW OURS IS THE ONLY WAY!
THE ONLY WAY FOR OUR PEOPLE'S VOICE TO BE HEARD!

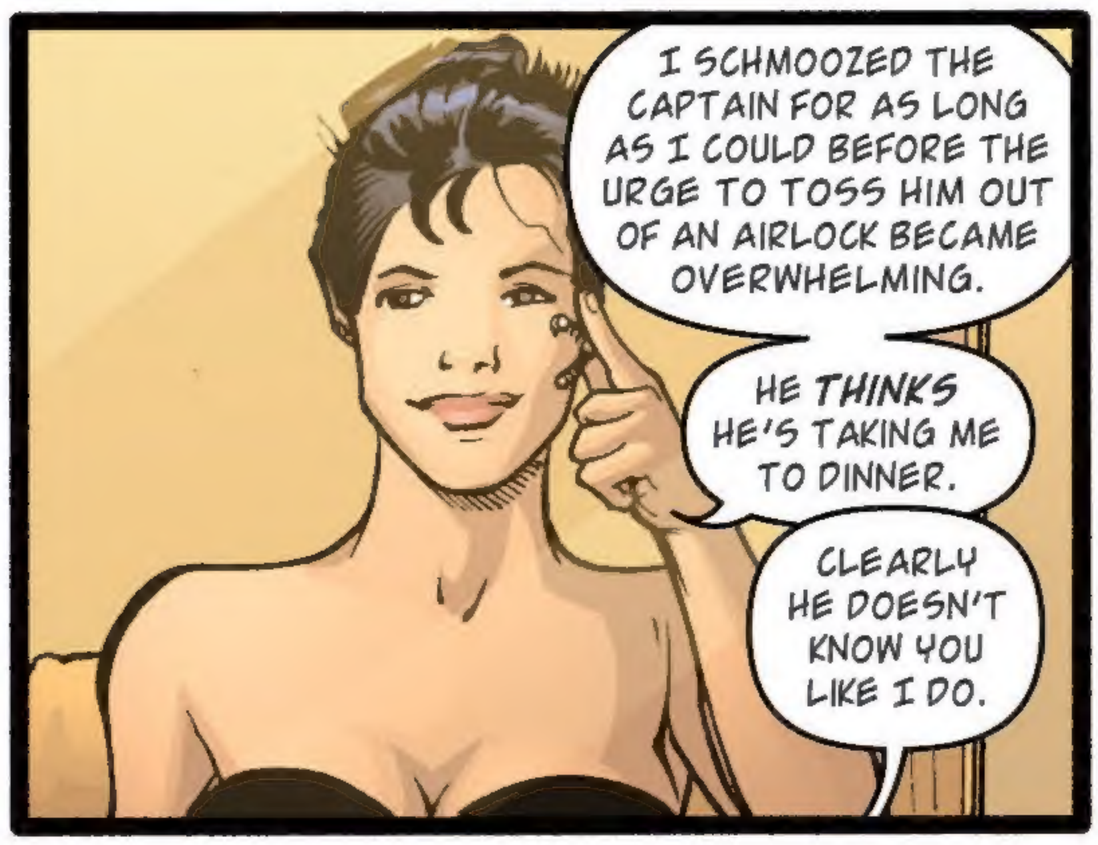
WE HAVE THE RICH AND FAMOUS OF A THOUSAND STAR SYSTEMS ABOARD!
IF WE ACCOMPLISH OUR GLORIOUS PURPOSE, OUR CAUSE WILL BE ON EVERY LIP ACROSS THE—
STOP! ENOUGH.

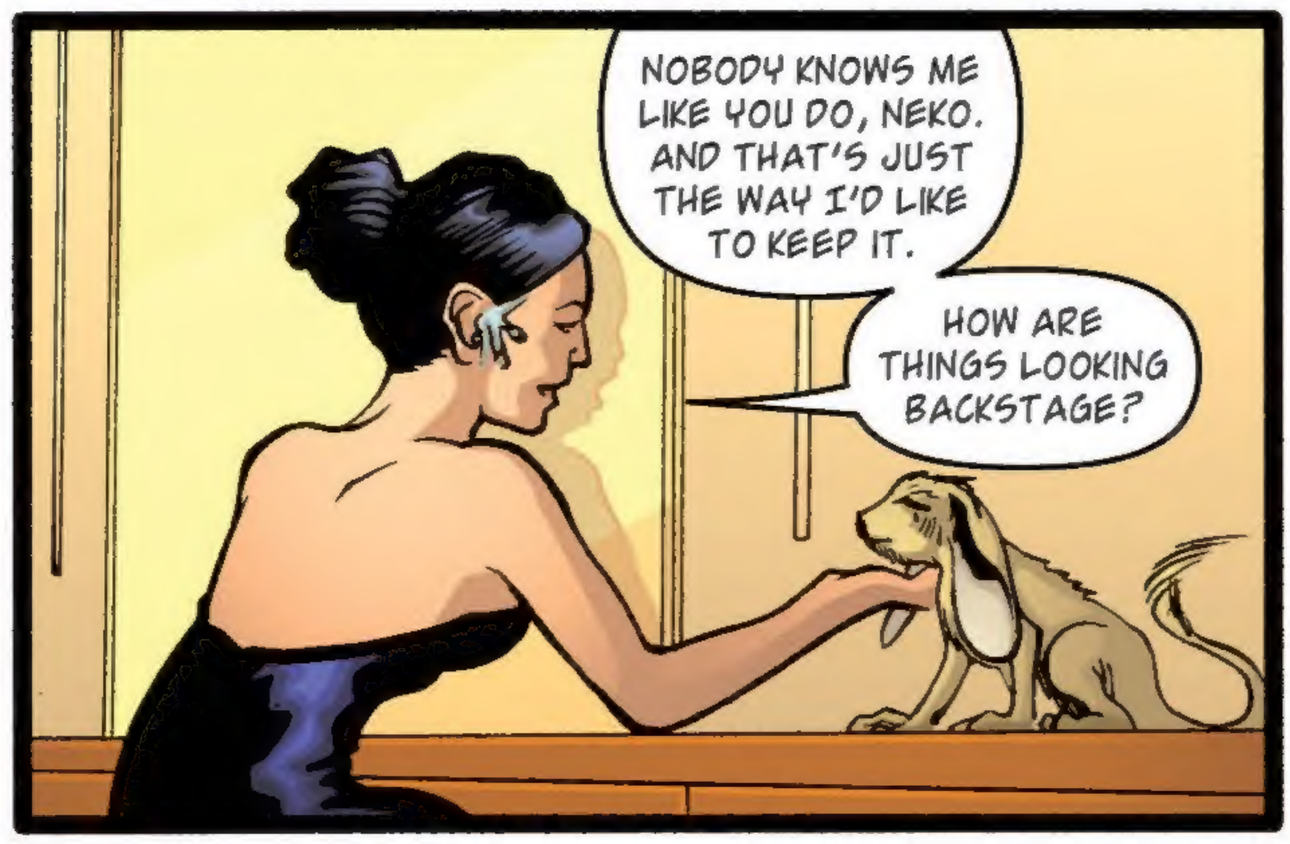
VERY WELL. GO PUT YOUR MASK BACK ON. PLAY YOUR PART.
BUT SOONER OR LATER, SIR, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PICK A SIDE.

YOU EITHER STAND WITH OUR VODIRAN OPPRESSORS...
...OR WITH THE GODDESS.

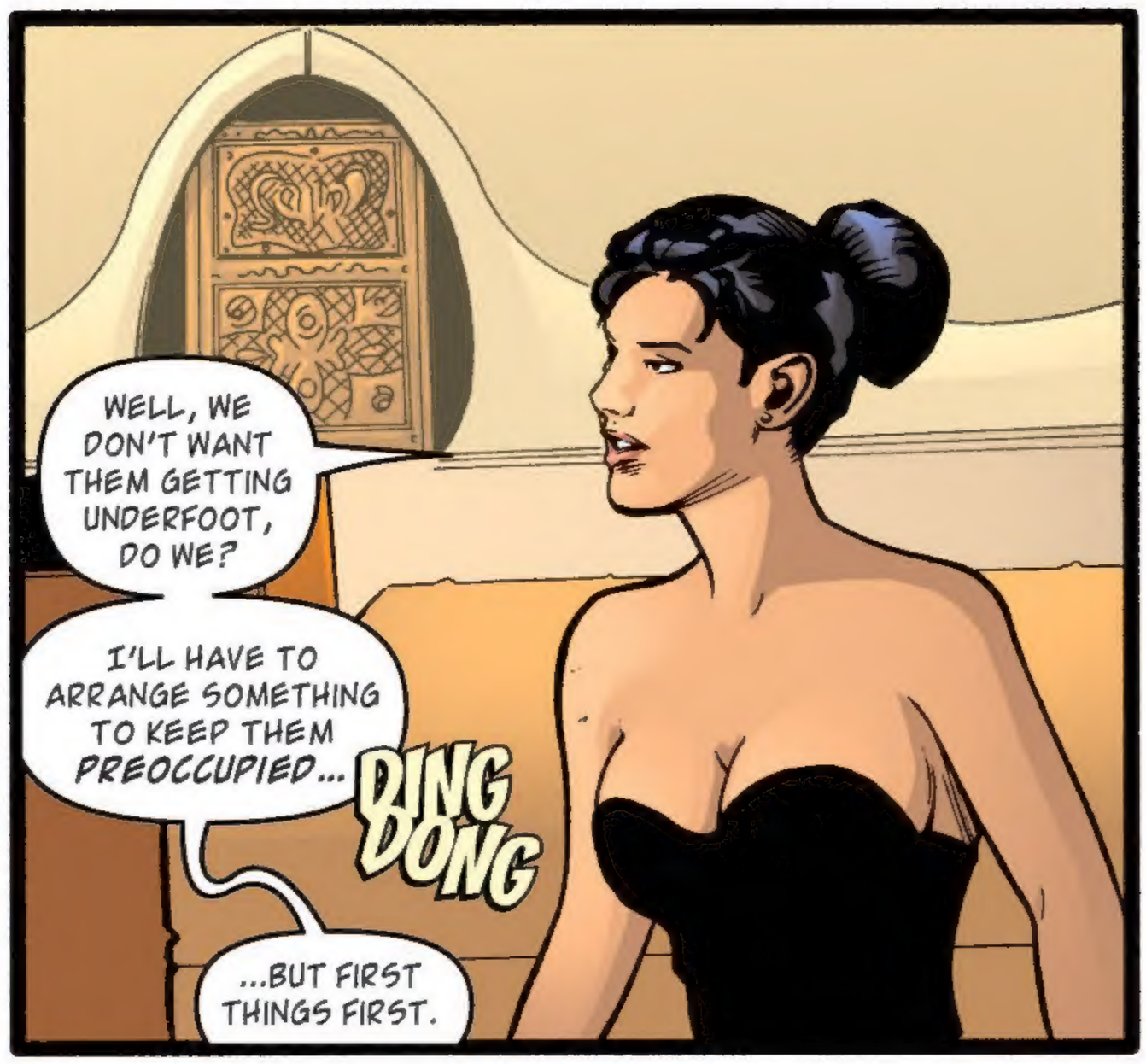



GOOD GRIEF. IT SMELLS LIKE A BETELGEUSIAN BORDELLO IN HERE.
THAT'S CHANEL NO. 5, YOU PHILISTINE. CLEARLY YOUR ALIEN OLFACTORY SENSES LACK REFINEMENT.
HOT DATE, HUH?

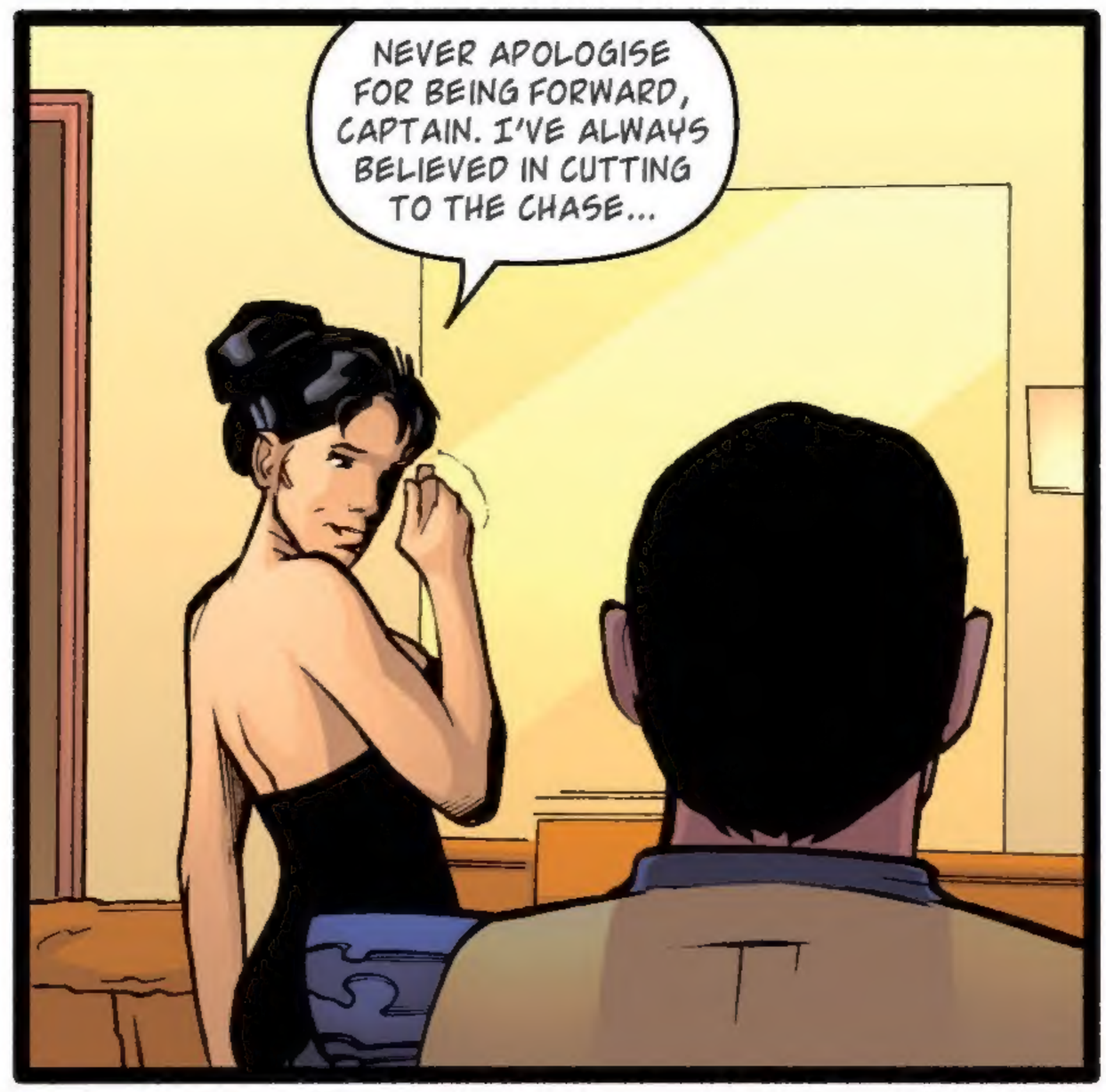

I SCHMOOZED THE CAPTAIN FOR AS LONG AS I COULD BEFORE THE URGE TO TOSS HIM OUT OF AN AIRLOCK BECAME OVERWHELMING.
HE THINKS HE'S TAKING ME TO DINNER.
CLEARLY HE DOESN'T KNOW YOU LIKE I DO.


NOBODY KNOWS ME LIKE YOU DO, NEKO. AND THAT'S JUST THE WAY I'D LIKE TO KEEP IT.
HOW ARE THINGS LOOKING BACKSTAGE?

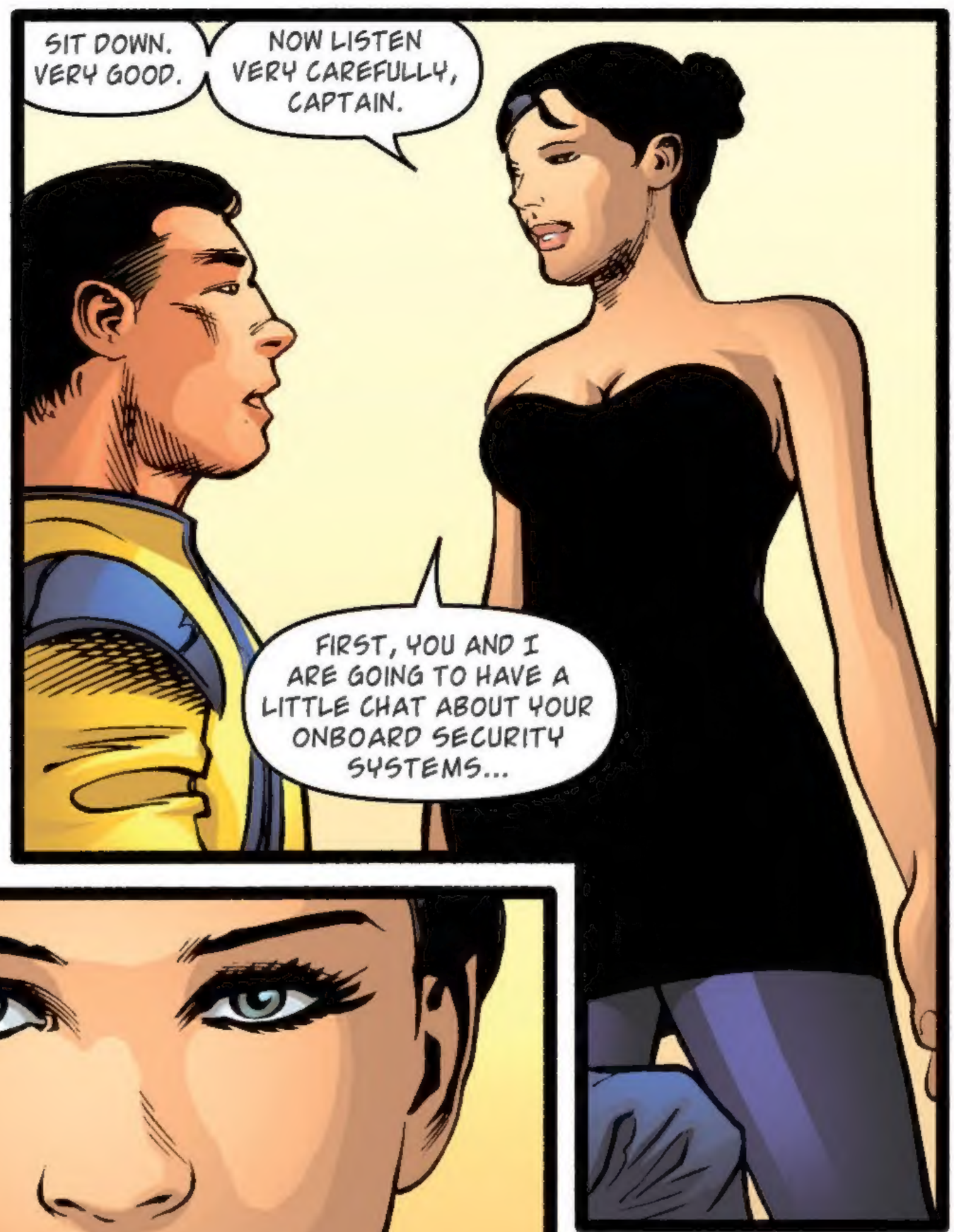
UGLY.
THE ASHAYAN CREW HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF BEING TREATED LIKE DIRT BY THE VODIRANS. THEY'RE PLOTTING SOMETHING.
SOMETHING BIG.


WELL, WE DON'T WANT THEM GETTING UNDERFOOT, DO WE?
I'LL HAVE TO ARRANGE SOMETHING TO KEEP THEM PREOCCUPIED...
BING DONG
...BUT FIRST THINGS FIRST.

LADY DE SOUZA!
FORGIVE ME FOR BEING FORWARD, BUT YOU LOOK QUITE RAVISHING!


NEVER APOLOGISE FOR BEING FORWARD, CAPTAIN. I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN CUTTING TO THE CHASE...

...WHICH IS WHY I'M DROPPING THE FLIRTATIOUS CHARADE, AND GOING STRAIGHT TO THE PART WHERE I SHOOT YOU IN THE FACE WITH A NEURAL PACIFIER.
WHUUUH...?


SIT DOWN. VERY GOOD.
NOW LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY, CAPTAIN.
FIRST, YOU AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE A LITTLE CHAT ABOUT YOUR ONBOARD SECURITY SYSTEMS...

AND THEN WE'RE GOING TO SET THE CONTROLS FOR THE HEART OF THE SUN.

NEXT ISSUE: STAR CRASH.